



## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS  
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FOUNDER  
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON  
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montaña

VICE CHAIRPERSON  
Mr. Frank S. Bacio

Ms. Barbara Bigby  
Ms. Rita Hall  
Mr. John A. Hammargren  
Mrs. Anne S. Hill  
Mr. Carl E. Moore

### **MINUTES OF THE** **SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS** **MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING OF JUNE 16, 2010**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Montaña called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

#### **OPENING CEREMONIES**

Chairperson Montaña led in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.  
Everyone introduced themselves.

#### **ATTENDANCE**

##### Present

Chairperson Eleanor R. Montaña  
Vice Chairperson Frank Bacio  
Rita Hall  
John Hammargren  
Carl Moore

##### Excused Absence

Ann S. Hill  
Barbara Bigby  
John Hammargren

##### Guest

Michael Henderson, Internal Services Department  
Captain Warren Asmus, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department  
Commander Margaret Ruiz, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department  
Lisa Campbell-Motton, Probation Department  
Mike Valera, Probation Department  
Barbara Butler, Department of Children and Family Services  
Dorothy Channel, Department of Children and Family Services  
Hilda Estrella, Community Care Licensing  
Kellee Coleman, Community Care Licensing

##### Staff

Nyla Jefferson  
Jimmy Prieto

## **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

### **Department of Children and Family Services**

Barbara Butler, DCFS, reported referrals of general neglect: 1 evaluated out, 4 pending and 4 pending physical abuse referrals. There were 9 total referrals and no sexual abuse referrals. There were a total of 257 runaways.

Dorothy Channel, DCFS, reported that this year Wednesday's Child Program is celebrating its 15<sup>th</sup> year highlighting adoptive children on Fox 11 News. Ms. Channel invited the Commission to view a special segment on Wednesday, June 16, 2010 on Fox 11 News at 10 p.m., and another scheduled on Sunday, June 2010 at about the same hour.

Commissioner Hall noted that the celebration gets better every year and was pleased to know that the young graduates were going to attend college. She commended the efforts of the MC, Mr. Rodriguez and guest speaker Jada Pinckett Smith. She was overwhelmed by the kids.

### **Internal Services Department**

Michael Henderson, Internal Services Department, reported that the Department continues to meet their performance measure completion rates. There is nothing out of the ordinary to report.

### **Mental Health Department**

No representative in attendance.

### **Probation Department**

Michael Varela, Probation Department, advised that his new assignment includes working with the Department of Justice to investigate issues recently cited in the press. On June 5, 2010, the Office of Education and the Probation Department held their annual graduation ceremony at the Wilshire Ebell Theater; nine Dorothy Kirby Center youth graduated.

Lisa Campbell-Motton, Probation Department, Director of Placement Quality Assurance, thanked the Commission for participating in the Peer Quality Case Review that is mandated every three years. The 39 individual interviews with officers and cases workers associated with youth cases and their emancipation, and 16 different focus groups provided important feedback.

There were 83 AWOLs, 52 remain AWOL, 15 replaced in Group Homes, 14 in juvenile hall, and 2 were placed in camps. Permanency and adoption is a huge mandate from the State and more kids are being referred to adoption. DCFS is assisting Probation in recruiting families for the youth, and there are two pending adoptions.

Commissioner Hall addressed the Commission's concerns regarding the poor living conditions cited at a recent visit at Camp Joseph Scott. The washing machine leaked

horribly, the barbwire fence was down, the dorm was filthy, smelly, showers are dirty, the laundry was dirty, beds were not kept and the floors were not swept. The officer conducting the site visit was not aware of any evacuation plan in case of an emergency. However, the girls are learning to cook and the nurse has all the medications in order. Camps Scott and Scudder have only one person each to clean the facility.

Chairperson Montaña mentioned the recent newspaper article regarding Probation Officers. Mr. Varela reported in-house investigations are handled within 30 days however the serious offenses are handled by the Internal Affairs Investigation. In the past, IAI has requested more staff. He is working with Michael J. Gennaco, Chief Attorney, Office of Independent Review, who issued the report regarding the LA County Probation Department. Chairperson Montaña asked staff to provide her a copy of the report.

Ms. Campbell informed the Commission that Ettie Lee Group Homes, St. Anne's Maternity Home, and Fields Comprehensive Youth Services are back in operation. However, Child's Homes for Children are on a Do Not Use status. Also, Donald Blevin, Chief Probation Officer, has talked with all operations in an effort to analyze the department's needs. Commissioners requested that the Probation Department utilize hand held cameras and stock suicide kits for all the Halls and Camps.

### **Sheriff's Department**

Commander Margaret Ruiz, LASD, reported that the Department is working to mitigate overtime in balancing the budget. Also, she was glad to introduce the pilot visiting program that will help to eliminate long lines when visiting inmates; it will begin in December 2010. Commander Ruiz will keep the commission apprised.

Captain Warren Asmus, LASD, reported that the court system is doing better overall and Wednesday, June 16, 2010 was the final court closure, and July and August will have furloughs. Also, in 2013 Huntington Park Court House will open.

The LASD's new policy includes taking responsibility of minors in custody transferred from the Probation Department. Captain Asmus indicated that personnel will conduct searches to identify minors with contraband cell phones.

### **Community Care Licensing**

Kallee Coleman, Community Care Licensing, reported that the Department's furlough will end in June 2010. Beginning in July a pilot program will go in effect for staff to develop a plan to conduct annual Group Home visits.

### **Auditor Controller's Department**

No representative in attendance.

Chairperson Montaña thanked all for their very informative presentations.

### **APPROVAL OF JUNE 9, 2010 MEETING MINUTES**

On motion of Vice Chair Bacio, seconded by Commissioner Moore and unanimously carried, the minutes of the meeting of June 16, 2010 were approved as submitted.

### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

- Thanked the Commission for the flowers and lunch at Kendalls Restaurant
- Reviewed Los Angeles Times Newspaper articles:
  - *L.A.'s "Colossal Mess" (6-12-10)*
  - *County Investigates Youth Camp Fights (6-12-10)*
  - *31 Probation Staff May Go Unpunished (6-14-10)*
  - *Juvenile Justice System Diverges into Two Paths (6-14-10)*
- Reviewed Daily Breeze article, *Probation Officers to Escape Punishment (6-15-10)*.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Vice Chairperson Bacio reported that the current bank statement balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$1,541.93

### **2010 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD PROGRAM**

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

### **2010 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD APPLICANTS**

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

### **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS ON GROUP HOMES AND/OR DETENTION FACILITIES INSPECTIONS FROM JUNE 10, 2010 TO JUNE 15, 2010**

**Deliaann Lucile Corporation– 12, #4 - Commissioner Hall and Moore** The facility was visited on June 3, 2010 and was found to be in satisfactory condition.

**Area of Concern:** Windows downstairs have bar covers with no release mechanism.

**Casa Esperanza – 47, #1 – Vice Chairperson Bacio** The facility was visited on June 10, 2010 and was found to be in satisfactory condition.

**Area of Concern:** One smoke detector needed a battery.

**Pennacle Foundation – 34, #4 – Chairperson Montañó 6** The facility was visited on June 14, 2010, but no one was home.

**Dangerfield Group Home #1 – 12, #1 - Commissioner Hall and Moore** The facility was visited on June 15, 2010 and was found to be in satisfactory condition.

**Areas of Concern:** *Needs and Services Plan* not at location and the disaster drill records are not current.

**Heritage Group Homes – 23, #3 – Vice Chairperson Bacio and Hill** The facility was visited on June 15, 2010 and was found to be in satisfactory condition.

Areas of Concern: Oven door was unattached, lighting was coming off ceiling, closet in bedroom #2 needs to be organized, bedroom door needs repair, and the facility needs painting.

**South Bay Bright Future Youth Center – 42, #2 – Chair Montano** The facility was visited on June 15, 2010 and was found to be in satisfactory condition.

**Areas of Concern:** Disaster plan not on site, and there are no earthquake supplies.

The Commission reviewed the letter to Director Pauline Starks regarding allegations of misconduct at the facility. On motion of Commissioner Moore, seconded by Commissioner Hall and unanimously carried, the letter was approved and staff was directed forward a copy to each Supervisor, and delete the word *consider*, and add *investigate*.

Commissioner Moore and Vice Chairperson Bacio will be unable to attend the next week's Commission meeting.

Also, the Strategic Plan will be discussed at a future meeting.

#### **NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There was none.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was none.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.